Opening of new post offices in villages

†1666. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to open new post offices in villages;

(b) the number of post offices in villages in each State;

(c) whether it is a fact that many villages of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan still do not have post offices despite of fulfilling all norms; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) New Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. The norms for opening new post offices in rural areas are given in enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Post Circile-wise data of villages with post offices is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

Level of access promised and norms of opening and retention of post offices in rural areas

- Population and Distance Norms:
  - * Normal rural area — Population 3000, 3 kms distance from nearest post office.
  - * Hilly, tribal, desert — Population 500 for individual village and 1000 for group of villages, 3 kms distance from nearest post office.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Income Norms for upgradation/opening/retention of Departmental Sub Post Offices:
    - * Normal Rural areas — Permissible limit of loss — Rs. 2400 per annum.
    - * Tribal and hilly areas — Permissible limit of loss — Rs. 4800 per annum.
- Income norms for opening/retention of Branch Post Offices:
    - * Normal rural areas — percentage of income to cost 33 1/3%, i.e. subsidy of 66 2/33%.
    - * Hilly, tribal, desert areas — percentage of income to cost 15%, i.e. subsidy of 85%.

Statement-II

Circle-wise information regarding villages with Post offices as on 31-03-2005

Sl. No.	Circle	No. of villages with Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15015
2.	Assam	3708
3.	Bihar	8622
4.	Chhattisgarh	2929
5.	Delhi	81
6.	Gujarat	8121
	Daman and Diu	13
	D.N. & Haveli	38
7.	Haryana	2329
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2658
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1687
10.	Jharkhand	2777
11.	Karnataka	8362
12.	Kerala	1453

1	2	3
	Lakshdweep	10
	Mahe (Pondicherry)	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7471
14.	Maharashtra	16125
	Goa	215
15.	North East	
	Arunachal Pradesh	303
	Manipur	644
	Meghalaya	299
	Mizoram	405
	Nagaland	299
	Tripura	659
16.	Orissa	7572
17.	Punjab	3418
	Chandigarh	8
18.	Rajasthan	9679
19.	Tamil Nadu	10424
	Pondicherry	59
20.	Uttaranchal	2496
21.	Uttar Pradesh	15778
22.	West Bengal	7639
	A&N Islands	89
	Sikkim	197
	TOTAL:	141582

New FDI norms by DoT

1667. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has prepared new Foreign Direct Investment norms which proposed to give a go ahead to Indian companies for appointing foreign national as chief executive officers and remove remote access restriction which was a major cause of concern for the BPO industry and foreign companies operating in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and